

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. Claims 6, 13 and 20 are objected to, and claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19 and 21 are rejected. Claims 1, 8 and 15 are amended. Claims 6, 13 and 20 are cancelled.

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Butler (US Patent No. 6,687,836) in view of Dustan et al (US Patent No. 5,884,312).

Claims 6, 13 and 20 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Responsive to the rejection under 35 USC 103(a) and the allowability of claims 6, 13 and 20, the claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 6;

Claim 8 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 13; and

Claim 15 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 15.

Claims 6, 13 and 20 have been cancelled.

No new matter has been included in claim 1, 8 or 15 since support for the amendments is found, inter alia, in cancelled claims 6, 13 and 20.


In view of the foregoing claim amendments and cancellations, the remaining claims 1-5, 7-12, 14-19 and 21 are deemed to be allowable and the case in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Serial No. 09/589,787
Amdt. dated September 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of June 17, 2004

No fee is believed due for this submittal. However, any fee deficiency associated with this submittal may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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